

Serial No.: 10/684,277
Amdt. Dated 02/09/2005
Reply to Office Action of 08/09/2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hand-operated gatherer comprising:

a shaft having a first end and a second end;

a basket tool assembly having a frame member, a pair of doors biased in closed position, and a gatherer head comprised of wire bails, the frame member attached at the first end of the shaft and each of the doors pivotally hinged to the frame member and presenting a lowermost edge at the lower end of the basket tool assembly in which each lowermost edge is proximal to the ground when the gatherer is in use, the edges being coplanar and separated intermediately by the gatherer head to define a storage component;

a handle assembly attached at the second end of the shaft, the handle assembly having a grip attached to the shaft and a trigger pivotally attached to the grip in movable relation to the handle; and

a control linkage attached to at least one of the doors and running lengthwise along said shaft to the handle assembly and attached at the handle assembly to the trigger, whereby the trigger is finger actuated to pull the control linkage and open the door or doors said at least one of the doors that are attached to the control linkage.

Claim 2 (canceled)

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Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (new) A hand-operated gatherer comprising:

a shaft having a first end and a second end;

a basket tool assembly having a frame member, a door biased in a closed position, an opposing wall of a storage compartment juxtaposed opposite the door, and a gatherer head comprised of wire bails, the frame member attached at the first end of the shaft and the door pivotally hinged to the frame member and the door and opposing wall each presenting a lowermost edge at the lower end of the basket tool assembly in which each lowermost edge is proximal to the ground when the gatherer is in use, the edges being coplanar and separated intermediately by the gatherer head to define the storage component;

a handle assembly attached at the second end of the shaft, the handle assembly having a grip attached to the shaft and a trigger pivotally attached to the grip in movable relation to the handle;

a control linkage attached to the door and running lengthwise along said shaft to the handle assembly; and

the control linkage attached at the handle assembly to the trigger so as to pull the control linkage and cause the door to open away from the gatherer head to create an opening between the gatherer head and the door.

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Claim 6 (new) A hand-operated gatherer as in claim 5 in which the control linkage is attached to the door at a point in which a sufficient angular force may be provided by the control linkage to the door to cause the door to pivot and open away from the gatherer head.

Claim 7 (new) A hand-operated gatherer as in claim 1 in which the control linkage consists of a stiff wire of small diameter attached to at least one of the doors at a point in which a sufficient angular force may be provided by the control linkage to the door to cause the door to pivot and open away from the gatherer head.